

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A strapping machine for positioning a strap material around an associated load, tensioning the strap material and sealing the strap material to itself around the load, the strapping machine comprising:
  - a frame;
  - a controller;
  - a slack box having a slack box cover;
  - a first portion of a strap path from the slack box, the first portion of the strap path having a strap path cover over a portion thereof, the strap path cover being mounted to the frame by a hinge common with the slack box cover, the strap path cover and slack box cover being openable independent of each other; and
  - a strapping head mounted to the frame, the strap path cover extending over a portion of the strapping head.
2. The strapping machine in accordance with claim 1 wherein the common hinge extends from an upper portion of the frame to a lower portion of the frame.
3. The strapping machine in accordance with claim 1 including an interlock, a first portion of the interlock mounted to the strap path cover and a second portion of the interlock mounted to the frame, the first and second portions of the interlock cooperating with one another to permit operation of the strapping machine when the first and second portions of the interlock are engaged with one another and to cease operation of the strapping machine when the first and second portions of the interlock are disengaged from one another.
4. The strapping machine in accordance with claim 1 wherein the strap path cover includes a plurality of openings therein for accessing portions of the strapping machine when the strap path cover is in a closed position.
5. The strapping machine in accordance with claim 1 wherein the strap path cover includes a floating guide forming a portion of the strap path when the strap path cover is in the closed position.

6. The strapping machine in accordance with claim 5 including aligning pins and openings cooperating with one another to align the floating guide when the strap path cover is in the closed position.

7. The strapping machine in accordance with claim 6 wherein the openings are formed in the floating guide and the pins extend from the strapping head for insertion into the openings.